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FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2512
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
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RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3202
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1487
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3540
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2926
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BISHKEK 000813

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PINR](#) [KG](#)

SUBJECT: KYRGYZ PRESIDENT'S SON TALKS ELECTIONS AND REFORMS
WITH AMBASSADOR

REF: A. BISHKEK 812

[1](#)B. BISHKEK 744

BISHKEK 00000813 001.2 OF 002

Classified By: Amb. Tatiana Gfoeller, Reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Over lunch July 25 with the Ambassador and DCM, President Bakiyev's son Maxim claimed that the Kyrgyz Central Election Commission would void any questionable protocols from the July 23 Presidential election. He hinted that the government would soon pursue civil service reform in order to create a more transparent system that would tackle government corruption. He also expressed the intention to establish open economic conditions in the country, and cited China as an example. Maxim Bakiyev praised recent successes by Kyrgyz security forces against extremist elements in the south, but worried about the influence of an expanding number of Saudi-financed mosques. The lunch, and an earlier engagement with the DCM, seem to indicate a desire by Maxim to establish an informal working relationship with the Embassy. End summary.

July 23 Election and OSCE Findings

[1](#)2. (C) During a July 25 lunch with the Ambassador and DCM, Maxim Bakiyev (President Bakiyev's son), who was joined by Foreign Minister Kadyrbek Sarbayev, said he had been on the President's "election team" leading up to the July 23 Kyrgyz Presidential election. Maxim told the Ambassador that the Central Election Commission (CEC) has been advised not to count any questionable protocols. (Note: Protocols of vote tallies originate at each polling station. End Note.) He claimed that if all observers had not signed the protocols, or if there were any disputes about the numbers, then the CEC would throw out those protocols. However, Maxim concluded, "it does not matter if he received 55% or 85% of the vote, President Bakiyev was reelected." He added that he thought the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe statement on the election (reftel A cites the OSCE's preliminary findings) had been premature because, he

reasoned, not all the protocols had been reviewed. Maxim noted that the CEC review of complaints would result in the final tallies not being released for a few days. (Note: According to the electoral code, the CEC has until July 28 to publish the results. However, it is not clear how seriously the CEC will consider complaints. End Note.)

Civil Service Reform Coming?

¶3. (C) Elaborating on plans for reform he previously mentioned to the DCM (reftel B), Maxim Bakiyev said the government would be pursuing civil service reforms soon. He told the Ambassador that Kyrgyzstan needed a transparent and professional civil service in order to eliminate corruption. Maxim admitted that the reforms would upset many people currently in government, and even, he noted, some in the Bakiyev family. U.S. support for civil service reforms, he said, could help refute these critics. His father, he claimed, wanted this reform to be one of his historical "legacies" for the country.

¶4. (C) Civil service reform, Maxim continued, would contribute to a cleaner and more transparent economy where businesses would pay taxes, and not finance criminals or pay bribes. Both he and the Foreign Minister highlighted the Chinese model of economic reform, and envisioned ways to import Chinese economic conditions to Kyrgyzstan. "Maybe," they suggested, "building more golf courses would attract more foreign businessmen."

Countering Extremism

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¶5. (C) Maxim Bakiyev praised the results of Kyrgyz counter-terrorism operations in southern Kyrgyzstan. (Note: Kyrgyz special forces have killed at least nine "Islamic extremists" and detained several others. End Note.) He said Islamic extremism was a "real threat" to the country, and lamented the large increase in Saudi-funded mosques in Kyrgyzstan. Maxim added that the government wanted to exercise greater control over what is said in mosques around the country. (Note: Kyrgyz security services routinely have personnel attending -- and presumably reporting on -- religious services. End Note.)

Comment

¶6. (C) Maxim is often viewed as leading an allegedly pro-Western camp among the President's family and close advisors that is in rivalry with a more pro-Russian, anti-reform camp led by his uncle Janysh for his father's attention. It is clear that this lunch and his previous engagement with the DCM are designed to establish a relationship with the Embassy.

GFOELLER